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Born September 17, 1928, Sioux City, Iowa. B.A., 1950; M.A., 1952, both from University of California at Berkeley. Ph.D. from The American University in 1965.

Joined staff of National Archives and Records Service in 1952, serving in the Motion Picture Branch and in the Cartographic Records Division; Assistant Chief, Exhibits and Publications Branch, 1957; Archivist in Charge of Foreign Affairs Branch, 1960; Chief, Diplomatic, Legal and Fiscal Branch, 1962; Manpower Officer, 1963; Office of Presidential Libraries, 1964; Assistant Archivist for Civil Archives, 1965; Deputy Archivist of the United States, 1966 until the present.

Dr. Rhoads is a member of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and a fellow of the Society of American Archivists. In 1966 he received the Meritorious Service Award from the General Services Administration.

He resides in Lanham, Maryland, with his wife and three children.